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Letter dated 23 November 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit the attached letter dated 15 November 2012 from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 July to 30 September 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and the annex thereto to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach herewith a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 July to 30 September 2012 (see enclosure).

I would appreciate if you would make this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anders Fogh **Rasmussen**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

Introduction

1. The present report on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is provided in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 July to 30 September 2012.

2. As at 30 September 2012, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was approximately 6,130. This included the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Operational Reserve Force Battalion. On 29 September 2012, the German/Austrian North Atlantic Treaty Organization Operational Reserve Force Battalion relieved the Italian one.

Security situation and operations

3. The overall security situation in theatre by the end of the reporting period remained calm, but volatile in the northern part of Kosovo. During the reporting period, KFOR continued to effectively use situational awareness to deploy manoeuvre forces and reserves to rapidly deter violence and manage crisis situations. Even though most logistic convoys of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) to and from crossing points 1 and 31 have been successful, some other EULEX convoys were sporadically blocked in the northern part of Kosovo.

4. During the reporting period some small-scale violent incidents occurred across Kosovo. On 19 July 2012, the house of a Kosovo Police officer in Zubin Potok was attacked with small arms and a hand grenade; no injuries were reported.

5. On 7 September 2012, a EULEX/Kosovo Police Monitoring, Mentoring and Advisory team was attacked near Zubin Potok.

6. The overall situation at the Administrative Boundary Line has not changed and remains stable. Most traffic uses crossing points 1 and 31. However, limited numbers of drivers continue to use unauthorized crossing points.

7. At its meeting on 10 September 2012 in Pristina, the International Steering Group declared an end to its supervision of Kosovo. This had no impact on the security situation in Kosovo.

8. On 16 July 2012, the formal opening of the new Administrative Office in Northern Mitrovica happened without reported acts of violence.

9. The transfer of responsibility for the security of the Dević Monastery from KFOR to the Kosovo Police on 1 June 2012 was successful.

10. The KFOR Commander change of command ceremony took place on 7 September 2012, with Major General Volker R. Halbauer assuming command from Major General Erhard Drews.

Summary

11. During the reporting period, KFOR, in coordination with EULEX, and the Kosovo Police continued to contribute to maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement in Kosovo. The situation in the northern part of Kosovo remained tense but under control. Freedom of movement is still not complete, with one permanent roadblock (Mitrovica Main Bridge) remaining. Despite good progress in the last months, the freedom of movement of EULEX is still being restricted occasionally. The close cooperation with EULEX, the Kosovo Police and KFOR, in its third responder capacity, remains effective. KFOR continues to closely monitor the security situation on the ground. From its deterrent posture KFOR is able to react quickly and decisively, as required.